

Message Text

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67

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-12 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

RSR-01 /105 W

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R 111652 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4998

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION BERLIN

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 06810

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, GW

SUBJECT: CURRENT STATUS WITHIN THE CDU

1. SUMMARY: SCHROEDER WILL PROBABLY BE THE NEXT CDU
BUNDESTAG FLOOR LEADER. KOHL MAY REPLACE BARZEL AS CDU
PARTY CHAIRMAN BEFORE SUMMER. END SUMMARY.

2. AS OF THE EVENING OF MAY 10 THE SITUATION WITHIN THE
CDU LOOKS AS FOLLOWS. TENTATIVE PLANS ARE BEING MADE TO
ELECT A SUCCESSOR TO BARZEL AS FLOOR LEADER ON MAY 17,
BUT THAT WILL PROBABLY PROVE TO BE TOO OPTIMISTIC AND AN
ELECTION A WEEK LATER SEEMS MORE PROBABLE.

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3. AT THE MOMENT IT APPEARS THAT GERHARD SCHROEDER WILL BE CHOSEN. HE HAS LET IT BE KNOWN THAT HE IS AVAILABLE AND THERE IS NO SERIOUS OPPOSITION. VON WEIZSAECKER IS CURRENTLY THE ONLY ONE WITH ENOUGH SUPPORT SERIOUSLY TO CHALLENGE SCHROEDER BUT HE HAS TOLD AN EMBOFF THAT HE WILL NOT DO SO AND WILL PROBABLY BECOME CHAIRMAN OF THE BUNDESTAG'S COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN POLICY, SCHROEDER'S PRESENT OFFICE. DREGGER HAS TRIED SO CRASSLY TO EXPLOIT BARZEL'S DEFEAT FOR HIS OWN GAIN THAT HE IS NOT A SERIOUS CONTENDER TO BECOME FLOOR LEADER AND MAY EVEN HAVE DAMAGED HIMSELF PERMANENTLY.

4. SEVERAL LAND ORGANIZATIONS OF THE CDU ARE PRESSING FOR A PRE-SUMMER RESOLUTION OF THE PARTY CHAIRMANSHIP QUESTION AND THE CHANCES AT THE MOMENT ARE AT LEAST 50-50 THAT A ONE-DAY SPECIAL LEADERSHIP CONVENTION OF THE CDU WILL TAKE PLACE IN BONN IN JUNE AND ELECT KOHL AS PARTY CHAIRMAN. KOHL WOULD IN TURN PROBABLY NAME BIEDENKOPF TO BE THE PARTY'S NEW SECRETARY GENERAL. THE REGULAR CDU CONVENTION SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER IN HAMBURG WOULD THEN BE CONCERNED SOLELY WITH A PLATFORM.

5. THE FATE OF THE UN ENTRY BILL IS NO LONGER IN QUESTION. CDU-CONTROLLED RHEINLAND-PFALZ AND BADEN WUERTTEMBERG HAVE DECIDED TO VOTE AFFIRMATIVELY IN THE BUNDESRAT AS WILL MOST PROBABLY STOLTENBERG'S SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN.

6. COMMENT: SHOULD EVENTS WITHIN THE CDU UNFOLD AS SET FORTH ABOVE, IT WOULD BE A GREAT STEP FORWARD FOR THE OPPOSITION. KOHL AND SCHROEDER WILL HAVE NO DIFFICULTY WORKING TOGETHER AND STRAUSS WILL COOPERATE WITH SCHROEDER FAR MORE THAN HE HAS WITH BARZEL. FURTHERMORE, KOHL IS AN EXCELLENT ADMINISTRATOR AND WILL BE ABLE TO BUILD AN ATTRACTIVE TEAM FOR THE 1976 FEDERAL ELECTION THOUGH IT IS FAR FROM CERTAIN THAT EITHER HE OR SCHROEDER, WHO WOULD THEN BE 66, WOULD BE THE CHANCELLOR CANDIDATE.
HILLENBRAND

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NMAFVVZCZ

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